

CLAIMS

1. A training device for a dancer comprising a mat or the like wherein said mat is provided with a set of indicia representing the preferred position for the dancer during any one or a combination of movements pertaining to said dance.
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2. A device according to claim 1 wherein said indicia represent the position of the feet and/or the toe region of said dancer.
- 10 3. A device according to claim 2 wherein said indicia represent a sequential combination of movements pertaining to said dance.
4. A device according to claim 3 wherein said indicia represent a sequential and progressive series of movements pertaining to said dance.
- 15 5. A device according to claims 3 or 4 wherein said indicia represent a sequential and reversible series of movements pertaining to said dance.
6. A device according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein said indicia are positioned to indicate the preferred foot position for a dancer with short legs.
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7. A device according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein said mat is provided with indicia dedicated to a selection of movements pertaining to said dance.
- 25 8. A device according to claim 7 wherein said selection is the left leg movement of said dance.
9. A device according to claim 7 where said selection is the right leg movement of said dance.
- 30 10. A device according to any one of claims 7 to 9 comprising a mat having a selection of indicia applied to alternate sides of said mat.
11. A device according to claim 10 wherein said indicia selection are chosen from a matching set of indicia including left and right matching indicia.
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12. A device according to any one of claims 1 to 6 comprising a plurality of said mats or the like wherein each mat is provided with indicia dedicated to a selection of movements pertaining to said dance.
- 5 13. A device according to claim 12 wherein said plurality of mats operate in combination.
14. A device according to claim 12 wherein said plurality of mats are adapted to provide indicia to represent both progressive and reversible movements when
10 said plurality of mats operate in combination.
15. A device according to any one of claims 1 to 14 wherein said indicia are visual means applied to said mat.
- 15 16. A device according to claim 15 wherein said visual means are foot and/or toe facsimiles printed on said mat.
17. A device according to claim 15 or 16 wherein said visual means are color coded.
- 20 18. A device according to any one of claims 1 to 14 wherein said indicia are tactile means applied to said mat.
19. A device according to claim 18 wherein said tactile means are foot and/or toe facsimiles applied or embossed on said mat.
- 25 20. A device according to any one of claims 1 to 19 further including a balancing device comprising horizontal and/or vertical bars adapted for positioning at or near said mat or mats to assist the dancer in balancing during the performance of said dance movements.
- 30 21. A device according to claim 20 wherein said balancing device is vertically and horizontally adjustable.
- 35 22. A device according to any one of claims 16 to 21 wherein said mat is adapted for co-engagement with a second or subsequent mat so as to provide a means of assembling an array of mats to provide a device as defined in claim 12.

23. A device according to claim 22 wherein said co-engagement is provided by protruding and co-engageable lugs formed at the edge of said mat.
24. A device according to claim 22 wherein said co-engagement is provided by a zipper.
25. A device according to any one of claims 1 to 24 wherein said indicia represent the preferred positions for a ballet dancer.
- 10 26. An electronic system for training a dancer comprising:
- i) video capture means for capturing a live image of the dancer as the dancer performs a dance routine;
 - ii) means for generating text and/or graphical images for display to the dancer in conjunction with the live image; and
 - 15 iii) display means for displaying the live image combined with the text and/or graphical images to the dancer to aid the dancer to perform the dance routine.
- 20 27. A system according to claim 26 wherein said dancer has a mat provided with a set of indicia representing preferred positions for the dancer during a dance routine, the system
28. A system according to claim 26 or claim 27 further comprising video buffer means for combining the live image of the dancer with the text and/or graphical images as a combined signal.
- 25 29. A system according to claim 28 further comprising video encoding means for receiving the combined signal from the video buffer means.
- 30 30. A system according to claim 29 wherein the display means is a television terminal linked to an output of the video encoding means so as to receive the combined signal.
31. A system according to any one of claims 28 to 30 further comprising a portable cartridge means having a memory module.
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32. A system according to claim 31 wherein the memory module stores any one of music, audio, text and/or graphical images in digital form for use by the system.
- 5 33. A system according to claim 32 wherein the cartridge means is linked to an audio generator for generating audio corresponding to the stored music or audio.
34. A system according to claim 33 wherein the generated audio is broadcast with the combined signal.
- 10 35. A system according to claim 34 further comprising a remote control unit operable by the dancer that is used to control the playing of the audio or music from the cartridge means and to control the operation of the video capture means.
- 15 36. A system according to claim 35 wherein the video capture means is an image sensor.
37. A system according to claim 35 wherein the video capture means is a video camera.
- 20 38. A system according to any one of claims 35 to 37 wherein the remote control unit is housed in balancing bars used by the dancer to assist in providing support or balance as the dancer performs the dance routine.
- 25 39. A system according to claim 38 further comprising processing means for controlling the audio generator, reading and writing to the cartridge means, controlling the video buffer means, video encoder means and video capture means.
- 30 40. A system according to claim 39 wherein the processing means is linked to an infrared detector or remote control sensor for receiving infrared signals from the remote control unit.
- 35 41. A system according to any one of claims 26 to 40 wherein the means for generating text and/or graphical images is produced by an on-screen display generator.

42. A system according to any one of claims 26 to 41 wherein the live image and/or overlaid text and/or graphical images is recorded on recording means linked to the television terminal for use by the dancer.
- 5 43. A system according to any one of claims 26 to 42 wherein any generated text or graphical images pertain to steps of the dance routine.
44. An electronic method for training a dancer comprising the steps of:
- 10 i) capturing a live image of the dancer as the dancer performs a dance routine;
- ii) generating text and/or graphical images;
- iii) overlaying or combining the generated text and/or graphical images with the live image; and
- 15 iv) displaying to the dancer the combined live image and text and/or graphical images to aid the dancer to perform the dance routine.
45. An electronic method according to claim 44 further comprising the step of storing any one of music, audio, text and/or graphical images in digital form on a portable cartridge means.
- 20 46. An electronic method according to claim 45 further comprising the step of generating audio or music to be combined and broadcast with the live image and text and/or graphical images.
- 25 47. An electronic method according to any one of claims 44 to 46 further comprising the step of recording the combined live image and text and/or graphical images.
- 30 48. A device according to any one of claims 1 to 25 substantially as hereinbefore discussed with reference to the examples.
49. A system according to any one of claims 26 to 41 substantially as hereinbefore discussed with reference to the examples.
- 35 50. A method according to any one of claims 44 to 47 substantially as hereinbefore discussed with reference to the examples.